

*Amendment, GAU 3618, Ser. No. 09/995,097*

### IN THE CLAIMS

1-4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended): For a user having a foot with a toe and standing on a skate, the skate including a position for the foot; a skate braking mechanism comprising:

a brake; and

a lifter connected operatively coupled to the brake and pressable upward by a toe motion consisting of an upward rotation of at least one phalanx bone of the toe relative to at least one metatarsal bone of the foot, while the user's foot is on the position, the toe motion acting of the user to actuate the brake;

whereby the brake ~~connected to the lifter~~ is actuated according to a natural motion of the ~~[[user]]~~ toe to maintain balance of the user, ~~[[:]]~~

~~wherein the brake comprises a brake shoe coupled to the lifter, and wherein the brake shoe bears on at least one wheel of the skate when actuated.~~

6-27. (canceled)

28. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the skate includes at least one wheel and the brake comprises a brake shoe coupled to the lifter, and wherein the brake shoe bears on the wheel of the skate when actuated.

29. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 28, wherein the brake shoe is coupled to the lifter via a linkage.

30. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 28, wherein the brake shoe is directly coupled to the lifter.

31. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 28, wherein the brake shoe comprises fiber-reinforced elastomer.

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32. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 31, wherein the brake shoe comprises a portion of fiber-reinforced elastomer belt.
33. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 31, wherein the elastomer comprises urethane.
34. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 28, wherein the brake shoe comprises urethane.
35. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, comprising a return spring counteracting an upward pressing motion of the toe.
36. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the lifter is positioned above the toe forward of the metatarsals of the foot of the user.
37. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the lifter is pivoted to be moved upward by the toe.
38. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 37, wherein the lifter is pivoted about a pivot axis adjacent to a joint between the metatarsal bone and the phalanx bone.
39. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, wherein the skate includes wheels and the brake comprises a brake shoe that is pivoted to rotate about an axle of a first wheel, so as to bear against a second wheel.
40. (new): The skate braking mechanism according to claim 5, comprising the skate.